



## **Southwest Area Type 1 Incident Management Team Jeff Whitney, Incident Commander**

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### **Reserve Complex PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

**June 17, 2006 - 1000 hours**

**Lead Information Officer:** Chadeen Palmer

**Public Information Officer:** Stuart Bishop

**Reserve Fire Information Center:** (505) 533-6901

The "Reserve Complex" consists of two wildfires on Reserve Ranger District of the Gila National Forest. These are the Martinez II fire and the Wilson II fire, located southwest and northwest of Reserve, NM, respectively. Both fires started from lightning on June 6, were initially wildland fire use fires, and are now being suppressed due to continuing drying weather conditions, location in relation to private lands and forest resources, and the general level of fire activity within the region.

Beginning at 6:00 am today, the Reserve Complex is being managed by a Southwest Region Type I Incident Management Team, with Jeff Whitney serving as Incident Commander. Type I teams are trained to manage the most complex level of wildland fires.

Currently, no evacuations have been ordered in the vicinity of either fire, and no structures have been lost or are imminently threatened. Area residents are encouraged to remain calm, but alert to possibly changing conditions. In the event of an evacuation, residents will be notified door to door by the Sheriff's Office or Fire Department. The Reserve School has been designated as a potential evacuation center.

Residents will likely experience smoke in the air for at least the next few days. The Reserve Senior Center is available for anyone who needs an environment that is relatively smoke-free. The center is open during weekdays. On weekends, contact the center manager at 533-6740 to use the center.

Predicted weather for today is hotter and drier, with temperatures in the upper eighties, and single digit humidity. Winds will be light from the northwest.

Updates on fire activity are being broadcast throughout the day on the local radio station, 104.5 FM. For fire-related questions, contact the Reserve Complex fire information office at 533-6901.

#### **Martinez II Fire**

This fire is now 40% contained. The size is now 5,443 acres, based on aerial and ground-based GPS mapping, which is more accurate than previous mapping efforts.

Yesterday, firefighters concentrated efforts on the Leggett Canyon area on the southwest flank, and the east flank above the San Francisco River Canyon. Structure protection was also reinforced around the Rancho Grande subdivision southwest of Reserve. Predicted strong winds did not materialize, providing air operations an opportunity to make effective use of retardant and water drops to slow the fire's growth. Five air tankers were utilized for the entire day to strategically place 22,000 gallons of retardant. Two helicopters also dropped water to cool the fire and reinforce containment lines.

Five 20-person type I crews, four type II crews, 11 engines, two dozers, one water tender, and structure protection resources will continue suppression efforts today, supported by three helicopters.

**Wilson II Fire**

The fire is approximately 5500 acres and burning in piñon-juniper and ponderosa pine. Yesterday, driven by stronger winds than experienced on the Martinez fire, the Wilson fire jumped containment lines on the southeast side and ran across road NFRS 49. Air tankers dropped retardant to slow the fire's progress.

Operations today will focus on assessing yesterday's fire progress and initiating new fireline construction as needed. Aerial support will be available again today if needed.

**For public and firefighter safety, an area closure is being developed for the area surrounding the Wilson II fire. The closure will include road NFRS 49 from the junction with Highway 12 to the junction with NFRS 545 in the vicinity of Torriette Lake. Further details on the closure boundaries will be available later today.**

Resources assigned to the fire today include four 20-person type I crews, one type II crew, 5 engines, four dozers, structure protection resources, miscellaneous overhead, and aerial resources as needed.

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